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*A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*

## Press Release

**Press Release Announcement – February 5, 2003 – For Immediate Use**  
*For the electronic report, please visit [www.nass.usda.gov/pa/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pa/)*

### Pennsylvania Annual Egg Production Down 2 Percent from Previous Year

**HARRISBURG** --- Annual egg production in Pennsylvania for the year ending November 30, 2002 was 6.52 billion eggs, 2 percent less than the 6.66 billion produced in 2001, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). There was an average of 23.6 million layers in Pennsylvania laying flocks during the 12-month period, 3 percent less than the 24.4 million the previous year. Average annual production per layer was 276 eggs, up 1 percent from the 2001 average of 273.

All chicken inventory (excluding commercial broilers) as of December 1, 2002 totaled 29.3 million, unchanged from the 29.3 million one year earlier. Pennsylvania ranked 4th in chicken inventory on December 1, 2002. Pennsylvania ranked 3rd in layers on hand December 1. Only Iowa, with 37.7 million, and Ohio, with 31.0 million, were the only states outranking Pennsylvania in layers. Commonwealth flocks included 24.2 million layers 20 weeks old and older, up 2 percent from last year; 5.0 million pullets less than 20 weeks old, down 11 percent; and 92,000 other chickens, up 18 percent from the inventory on December 1, 2001. The average value per bird on hand December 1, 2002 was \$1.80. Total value of all flocks in Pennsylvania on December 1, 2002 was estimated at 52.7 million dollars, up 12 percent from the 46.9 million dollars in 2001.

Nationally, egg production during the year ending November 30, 2002 totaled a record high 86.7 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous year. Layer numbers averaged 337 million, up 1 percent from 2001. The annual average production per layer on hand in 2002 was 257 eggs, up slightly from the 2001 average of 256.

The inventory of all chickens in the United States (excluding commercial broilers) totaled 439 million on December 1, 2002, down 1 percent from last year. Hens and pullets of laying age plus pullets over 13 weeks old but not of laying age on hand totaled 377 million, down 1 percent from December 1, 2001. The average value of chickens in the nation's flocks on December 1 was \$2.38, down 4 cents from 2001. Total value of the nation's flocks was estimated at 1.05 billion dollars, down 2 percent from a year ago.